



NEWS RELEASE

January 3, 2003

December Narcotics Seizures Total \$94 Million

McALLEN, Texas – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announces that Border Patrol Agents of the McAllen Sector seized a total of 35,126 pounds of marijuana valued at \$28,104,089 and 2,063 pounds of cocaine valued at \$66,056,684 during December 2002. The following is a breakdown of the seizures by station for December 2002.

➤ <u>Brownsville Station:</u>	Marijuana:	19 pounds	Value: \$ 15,200
➤ <u>Falfurrias Station / Checkpoint:</u>	Marijuana:	9,332 pounds	Value: \$ 7,467,669
	Cocaine:	1,064 pounds	Value: \$34,062,209
➤ <u>Harlingen Station:</u>	Marijuana:	1,611 pounds	Value: \$ 1,290,252
➤ <u>Kingsville Station / Checkpoint:</u>	Marijuana:	1,085 pounds	Value: \$ 868,343
	Cocaine:	738 pounds	Value: \$23,616,411
➤ <u>McAllen Station:</u>	Marijuana:	7,223 pounds	Value: \$ 5,778,400
	Cocaine:	.04 pounds	Value: \$ 30
➤ <u>Mercedes/Weslaco Station:</u>	Marijuana:	464 pounds	Value: \$ 370,990
➤ <u>Fort Brown Station:</u>	Marijuana:	2,366 pounds	Value: \$ 1,892,800
➤ <u>Rio Grande Station:</u>	Marijuana:	13,025 pounds	Value: \$10,420,435
	Cocaine:	261 pounds	Value: \$ 8,378,034

Total Value of Narcotics Seized for Month of December: \$94,160,743

The first two days of January 2003, agents made six separate seizures totaling 1,125 pounds of marijuana valued at \$899,632. These seizures involved the Falfurrias, Kingsville, McAllen and Mercedes Stations.

“The hard work and dedication of the Border Patrol Agents of the McAllen Sector who diligently work to protect our nation’s borders, maintaining vigilance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, prevents these narcotics from ending up on our nations streets, neighborhoods, schools, and into the hands of our children.”

“McAllen Sector’s Operation Rio Grande, now 5 years in existence, has concentrated resources and manpower in maintaining a high vigilance along our border. Now more than ever, maintaining control of our nation’s borders is of utmost importance.”

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